

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Albania

REPORT

SUBJECT Port of Vlone and Island of Saseno
(security measures, piers, harbor
craft, trenches)

DATE DISTR. 25 November 1957

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1

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

report

giving information on facilities, control and security measures and fortifications at the port of Vlone and the island of Saseno. The report states that there are 5 coastal batteries at Vlone and 5 coastal batteries at Saseno consisting of 106 - 175 mm. guns of Soviet and German make.

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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INFORMATION ON THE NAVAL BASE OF VLONE - SASENO (Sazan).

ATTACHMENT TO

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1. The Naval Base of Vlone - Saseno is administratively under the jurisdiction of the Coastal Defense Directorate which has its headquarters in Durres, and is known as Coastal Artillery Brigade.
2. The coastal defense is responsible for the defense of the long coast of Albania, from North to South, as well as for the defense of the Island of Saseno.
3. The Naval Base of Vlone - Saseno has two smaller bases, i.e.:
 - a) Vlone, and
 - b) Saseno.
4. [REDACTED] there are, in Vlone, under construction certain projects which are connected with the establishment of a submarine base. This base is to become a secondary (auxiliary?) base for the Albanian Navy.
5. Island of Saseno: It is a small barren island, with an area of about three square kilometers, located at a distance of about 3 miles north of Cape Linguetta (Akrokeravnion) of the Albanian Northern Epirus.
It is a strategic point for the Ionian, and the Adriatic Sea, and is also a strong bastion of the Gulf of Vlone.

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On the eastern side of the island, there is a carriage road stretching from North to South, and serving military purposes.

The highest point of the island is marked by an altimeter of 331 meters. There is a coastal observation post on it.

Saseno is a submarine base on which certain projects have been constructed, and are still going on.

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6. ARMAMENT

- a) In Vlone there are 5 coastal batteries.
- b) In Saseno, also, there are 5 coastal batteries.

The guns used there are Russian guns, and former German guns, all of which were provided recently by the Soviet Union. The caliber of the guns is from 106 to 175 mm.

7. RADAR. There are no clear indications of use of Radar by the Albanian coastal defense.

8. Coastal observation posts of bases.

- At altitude 331 on Saseno.
- At altitude 826, 817, and 116 of the Keravnia (Rreza e Kanalit) mountain, and the area of the Gulf of Vlone.

9. Ammunition Depots.

There are artillery, and infantry ammunition depots in Vlone, and in Saseno.

10. Barriers - Minefields.

- ~~At the entrance of the Gulf of Vlone, there is a barrier put up~~ The barrier put up [] at the entrance of the Gulf of Vlone, is still ~~there~~ in use.
- The passage along the barrier is marked by buoys which allow an opening of about 80 meters. The opening is at a distance of 150-200 meters from the coast.
- It ~~is~~ seems improbable that there is a minefield at the entrance, as well as in the Gulf of Vlone.

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11. FORTIFICATIONS

There are permanent fortifications in Vlone []

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[] The construction of fortifications ~~is~~ going on, under the supervision of Soviet technicians. **SECRET**

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SASENO. The temporary [] fortifications on the Island, were completed, and improved, by batteries, and by other projects of semi-permanent and permanent fortifications under the supervision of Soviet techniques.

12. MANNING.

In time of peace, the defense of Vlone, and of Saseno is entrusted to one Border Guards Battalion of 350 men. In time of war, however, two Infantry battalions, of complete combat composition, are assigned to Saseno.

13. IMPORTANCE OF THE BASE.

It is rumored that the Naval Base of Vlone - Saseno is to be organized so as to accommodate 30-50 submarines with which the communications in the Adriatic Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea will be controled. This information is subject to further checking, as much as possible. Other information also is being collected.

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GENERAL INFORMATIONI. ORGANIZATION

No.1 Pier supported by poles, at the east side of which no ship larger than of 2,500 tons can dock. There were no cranes on the said pier.

No.2 Destroyed pier. This pier is not in use.

II. ANCHORED SHIPSa) Merchant ships:

No.3 Position of a Soviet freighter, of about 2,500 tons, of unknown name, that discharged, and loaded, unknown items.

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the above ship discharged and received cargo at the port as above, from its load line that kept changing position.

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docked at same as above position one hour after the

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departure of the above ship, [REDACTED]

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b) [REDACTED]

III. FLOATING MEANS

[REDACTED] an iron speedboat (fishing-boat), that docked at the Scala, and let out about twenty passengers and about ten soldiers. The said soldiers were dressed in khaki uniforms. [REDACTED]

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IV. LIGHTHOUSES & FANALS

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the lighthouse on Saseno (see drawing No.4) and the green fanal on Liquezza (see drawing No.5), were out of order.

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[REDACTED]

No.6 At this position, [REDACTED] three half-sunk buoys wrapped in barbed wire.

No.7 Position, at which a fanal (spark) was observed, marking a wrecked ship.

No.8 Position on the pier, at which a fixed red fanal was observed.

V. LICUETTA

No.9 At this position, i.e. on the slope of the mountain, [REDACTED] 6 or 7 trenches that were located about 40-150 meters from the surface of the sea, and that extended for about 500 meters. The trenches were about 6 meters wide and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ meters high. In a wooded area at the top of the mountain, [REDACTED] a small building that was covered with tile.

[REDACTED] not observed any guns in the trenches in the said area, despite the fact [REDACTED] sailed at a distance of about 1,000 meters from its coast, and was in a position to observe it well. Nothing else was observed on the above coast in addition to the above-mentioned.

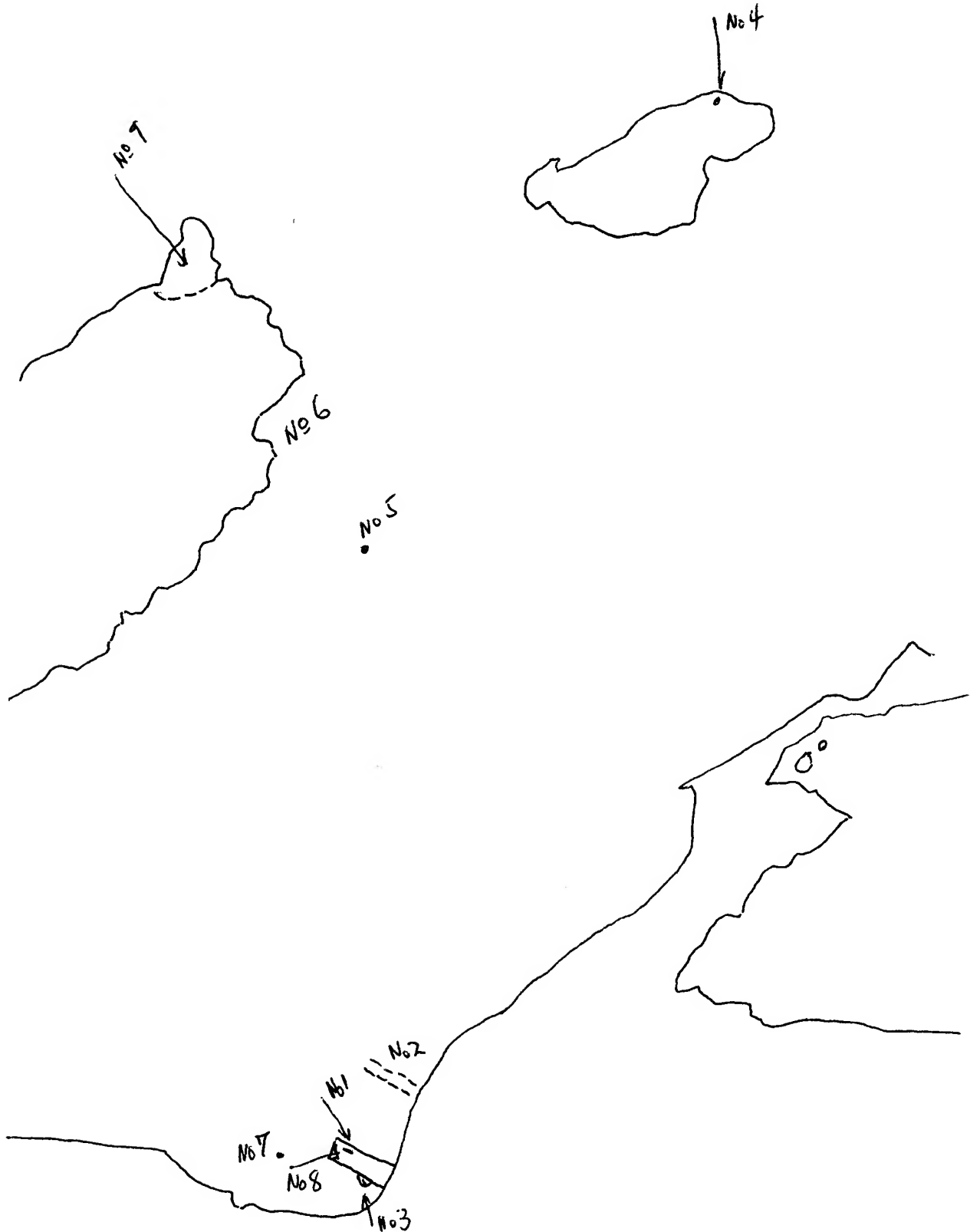
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[REDACTED]

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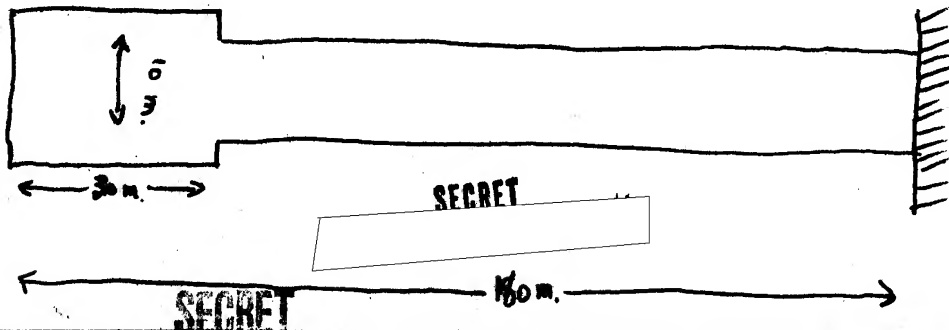
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SECRETA. PORT VALONAI. The Scala Areaa) Pier

The pier at the Scala, has a total length of about 180 meters. Its end part that is about 30 meters long, and at which the draughts are about 22 feet, is used for loading and discharging ships of up to 3,000 tons D.W. Due to smaller draughts, the remaining part is used by smaller ships. The pier is built on poles, and its floor all around is made of concrete, whilst in the middle its is made of dirt.



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[redacted]

There are no fixed cranes of the pier. [redacted] 3 cranes of about one (1) ton each, that were being pulled by automobiles, and that were operating with the aid of the engine of the automobile.

A fixed red fanal was observed at the end point of the pier. At a distance of 800-1,000 meters South of the pier, [redacted] a fanal (spark) marking the position of a wrecked ship.

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b) Factories

A factory producing asphalt, was observed at a distance of about 500 meters from the coast, on the right hand side of the road from the Scala to the city. [redacted] trucks loaded with asphalt, leaving the factory. At about the same distance, but on the left hand side of the road, [redacted] a large factory, rather a cannery, that was surrounded by a wall. The wall along the road, was about 150 meters long. Behind it, [redacted] a water tower and a pyramidal square smoke-stack that was not very tall.

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II. Floating Means

[redacted] the arrival at the Scala of a fishing boat that would let off 25-30 passengers, civilians and soldiers. The soldiers were dressed in khaki uniforms.

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III. Merchant Ships Observed

A Soviet freighter of about 2,500 tons was observed docked at the south

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side of the pier (Scala)

IV. Warships Observed

No warships were observed.

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V.

VI. Air Force

[] a training plane that would fly over the harbor between

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0600 hrs. and noon every day. It had two wings, and []

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[] its speed was not greater than 40 miles per hour.

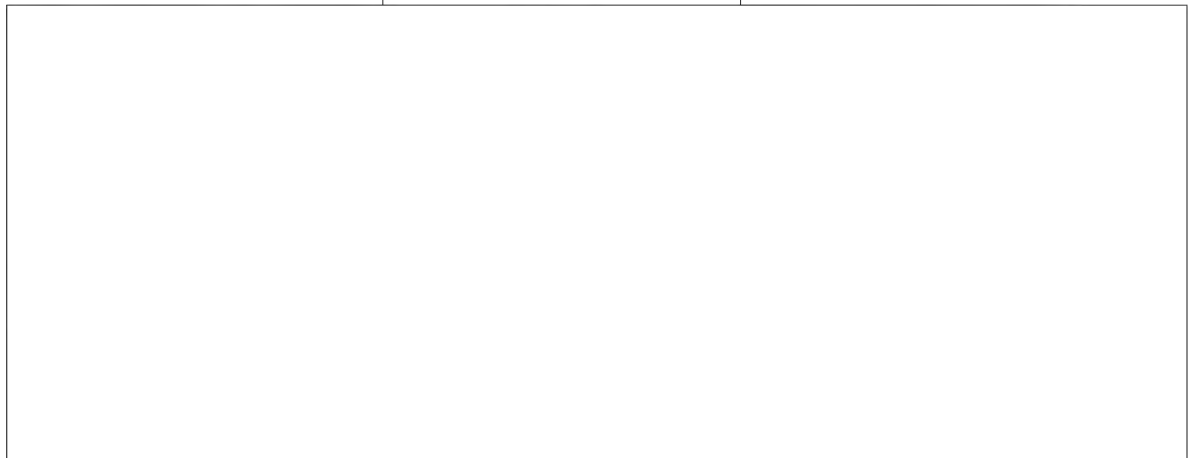
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VIII. General Information

Near the Scala, and to the right of it towards Kryonero, there is a luxurious seaside Club, consisting of one small one-story building. For the entertainment of the bathers, it has boats (canoes) and umbrellas. A dance was given each night. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Club is frequented by Soviets. [REDACTED] about 50 guests - men and women - dressed in civilian clothes. In the area round the Club, [REDACTED] passenger cars of the SKODA type. Near Cape Corlovez, [REDACTED] three half-sunk buoys wrapped in barbed wire.

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B. CAPE LINQUETTA

On the slope of the hill, [REDACTED] 2-3 series of batteries (ditches with dikes). The first row was at a distance of about 50 meters from the surface of the sea. [REDACTED] there are about 20 gun parks (ditches with dikes), and are camouflaged with branches of trees. A little lower than the coast row of batteries (trenches with dikes). [REDACTED]

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two square pill-boxes of concrete, that stood at a meter's height from the ground. They had little openings. They were not camouflaged, and,

they were rather abandoned. Near the gun parks, three small one-story buildings covered with tile. One of them, was a little larger than the others, long and narrow, and was rather being used as quarters of the personnel.

the gun parks (ditches with dikes) were about 6 meters wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ meters high. Also on the top of the hill, a small building covered with tile. No guns were observed in the gun parks.

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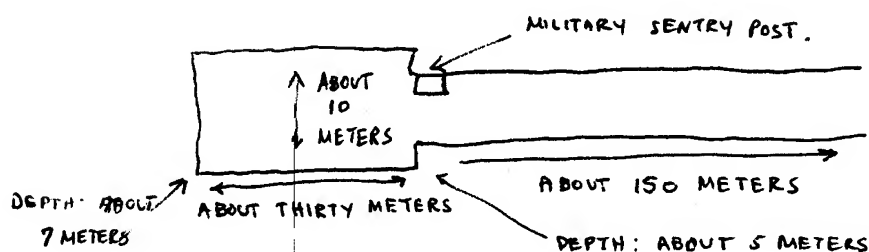
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GENERAL INFORMATION

I. ORGANIZATION

Scala: is about 180 meters long, and is supported by poles
(see sketch of it herebelow):



The part of the pier being used for loading and discharging, is only about 30 meters. The largest part of the pier, which is also narrower, is not being used due to shallow waters beneath it.

All around, the floor of the pier is made of concrete, while in the middle it is made of dirt. There are no cranes on it.

only three small cranes, of about one ton each, pulled

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[redacted]
by an automobile, and operating with the aid of the engine of the automobile.

To the right of the road leading from the Scala to the city, and at a distance of about 500 meters from the coast, there is an asphalt factory. I. observed the trucks that carried tar to his ship, coming out of the above factory.

To the left of the road, and at about the same distance as above, [redacted]

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[redacted] another factory, a large one, surrounded by a wall, rather a cannery. The length of the wall along the road, was about 150 meters.

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Within the wall, [redacted] a water tower (water reservoir) and a smokestack that was shaped like a pyramid, and that was not very tall.

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Near the Scala, and to the right, towards Kryonero, there is a luxurious seaside Club, consisting of a small one-story building. The said Club has at its disposal row-boats (canoes) for the entertainment of the bathers, and beach umbrellas. Each night, there is given a dance to the music of an orchestra. [redacted]

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frequented by Soviets. [redacted] each night about 50 guests, men and women, dressed in civilian clothes. [redacted]

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[redacted] they were all Soviets. In the area surrounding the Club, there were almost always private cars of the SHODA type.

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[redacted]
[redacted] only one Soviet ship that discharged, and loaded, unknown items. [redacted]
[redacted]

III. FLOATING MEANS

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[redacted] fishing boats making trips [redacted] there would come a fishing boat that carried civilians and soldiers. [redacted]
[redacted]

IV. AIRPLANES

A training airplane performed flights over the harbor [redacted]
[redacted] almost constantly except for a few intermissions.
The above plane had two wings, and its speed was not greater than 40 miles per hour. [redacted]
[redacted]

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V.

[redacted]

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VI. PROTECTION

On the slope of the hill at Cape Liguetta, [] 2 or 3 series 25X1
 of gun-parks. The first series was situated about 50 meters from the
 surface of the sea. [] more than twenty batteries, camouflaged 25X1
 with branches of trees. The said area is not densely wooded, but has
 rows of trees planted at various intervals.

At points (a) and (b) a little lower than the series of batteries
 near the coast, [] two concrete pill-boxes (square building, 25X1
 standing at a meter's height from the surface of the ground, with
 little windows). They were not camouflaged, [] 25X1
 [] they are abandoned. Also, near the excavations (the gun-parks),
 [] three small, one-story buildings covered with tile, one 25X1
 of which, the largest, a long and narrow building, was being rather
 used as personnel quarters. This building is not visible from the
 West.

There are no buoys between Saseno and Liguetta.

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[] Saseno Island [] 25X1
 [] On the south side of it only [] a
 few small buildings.

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